



Becoming a Neighborhood Networks Partner:

Strategic Philanthropic Investments in Community Building

At Puerto Rico's La Ceiba Neighborhood Networks Center, students from two local schools—the Ponce Paramedic School and the Interamerican University—teach classes at the center and can use the center's computers to complete their own school work.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Primary Health Care teams with Neighborhood Networks on a national level, paving the way for local health centers to partner with individual Neighborhood Networks centers to make health care more accessible to communities.

These are just two of the thousands of examples of Neighborhood Networks local and national partnerships in action.

Across the United States, business and industry, health care and academic institutions, local and federal government agencies, and non-profit and faith-based organizations are forming partnerships with Neighborhood Networks or its centers.

Why?

Partnerships strengthen a community's foundation, by building the local workforce and providing education, health care and social services to the people who live there.

What is Neighborhood Networks?

Neighborhood Networks encourages the development of resource and computer centers in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) properties. These centers work to build self-sustaining communities that serve the needs of lower-income families and seniors where they live. Neighborhood Networks' premise is simple. Recognizing the emerging role of technology in society, HUD established the Neighborhood Networks initiative to build computer skills that help open the door to economic opportunity for residents of HUD housing, while also creating stronger, healthier and safer communities.

Neighborhood Networks is addressing the "digital divide" between groups of people based on their ability to use and access technology. Neighborhood Networks provides training and

access to many people on the wrong side of the digital divide—the elderly, lower-income people, racial and ethnic minorities and others. With help, people are building the foundation of essential skills they need to change their lives.

What is a Neighborhood Networks center?

There are more than 600 Neighborhood Networks centers in rural and urban communities in every state in the nation, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Neighborhood Networks Facts...

WHAT: Neighborhood Networks is a community-based initiative launched by HUD in September 1995. It encourages the development of resource and computer centers in HUD housing.

- More than 620 centers in operation*
- Thousands of business, community and government partners
- More than 744 properties with centers in planning*

WHO: Serves HUD housing residents, owners, managers, partners and communities.

*as of 08/00

Neighborhood Networks centers typically offer Internet access and training, as well as programs and activities in employment, education, health care and social services for people of all ages.

How do local partnerships work?

Most partners work one-on-one with Neighborhood Networks centers. Local partners can be businesses, corporations, schools, colleges, hospitals, social service agencies, nonprofit organizations or government agencies.

How a successful partnership might work:

- A social service agency provides support services at a Neighborhood Networks center, and reaches a new group of constituents.
- A corporation works with a center to develop and offer a job training program, and gains access to a well-trained, as-yet-untapped workforce.
- Area colleges and universities provide student interns to teach after-school and other learning programs at a center, providing both the student interns and the center participants a great learning opportunity.
- Hospitals and community health centers develop programs and activities to work with centers on public education, and improve the community's health.

How do national partnerships work?

The Neighborhood Networks initiative builds partnerships with national organizations. Many of these partnerships pave the way for collaborations between local centers and the national partner's local affiliate.

One good example is the partnership with the Bureau of Primary Health Care, which has led to working relationships between community health centers located near Neighborhood Networks centers, such as the one between the South Baltimore Family Health Center and the Neighborhood Networks Center at Cherrydale Apartments in Baltimore, MD.

Another national partnership with the nonprofit HOPE for Kids is helping local Neighborhood Networks centers to sign up children in the Children's Health Insurance Program, which provides health insurance coverage to uninsured children up to age 19.

Why should I be a partner?

Neighborhood Networks presents a valuable opportunity for any partner wishing to make a strategic investment in a single community or in communities nationwide.

- Partners gain the opportunity to train a labor force with skills to meet their needs.
- Partners open a new avenue for involvement in a community, and a potential link to new markets.
- Partners can make a real difference in the economic health and wealth of a community and its people.

Partners can provide any number of resources:

- goods — such as furnishings or computer hardware and software
- technology services — such as teaching LAN set-up and providing guidance in starting a small business
- financial support

The opportunities for partnership are limitless. We urge creative thinking!

How can I partner with Neighborhood Networks?

To learn about partnering with a Neighborhood Networks center in your area, or getting involved on a national basis, please call the Neighborhood Networks Information Center toll-free at 1-888-312-2743 or visit the Neighborhood Networks Web site at www.neighborhoodnetworks.org. We urge you to request an information packet.

For more information, contact:

✉ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Neighborhood Networks
9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031-1207

Web site www.NeighborhoodNetworks.org

E-mail mail@NeighborhoodNetworks.org

☎ Neighborhood Networks Information Center
(888) 312-2743

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Visit our website at www.NeighborhoodNetworks.org

